

BACTERIAL BLIGHT OF SWEDISH IVY CAUSED BY *PSEUDOMONAS CICHORII* J. W. Miller¹

Swedish ivy, *Plectranthus australis* R. Br., is a native of Australia belonging to the mint family, Labiateae. It is a creeping herb used for hanging baskets (1). Other species of *Plectranthus*, including *P. oertendahlii* T.C.E. Fries, are grown on occasion. A serious disease was observed in nurseries from scattered locations in Florida which resulted in leaf spotting and blighting. *Pseudomonas cichorii* (Swingle) Stapp was consistently isolated from diseased plants and was confirmed as cause of the problem.



Figure 1. *Pseudomonas cichorii* on *Plectranthus australis* showing dark gray leaf spots and blighted leaves.

SYMPTOMS: The disease begins as dark gray, rather dry spots which occur either within or along the margin of the leaves (Fig. 1). The lesions may enlarge and lead to blighting of the plant, with defoliation of older leaves (2). Artificial inoculations showed susceptibility of other members of the family Labiateae including *P. oertendahlii*, *Coleus X hybridus* Voss. 'Golden Bedder', and *Rosmarinus officinalis* L. (rosemary), but not *Ajuga reptans* L. (bugleweed).

CONTROL: It is best to rogue diseased plants or leaves and keep foliage as dry as possible to retard disease spread. Take cuttings only from healthy plants. No chemicals are registered for control of this disease on Swedish ivy.

SURVEY AND DETECTION: Look for dark gray, dry spots on leaf blades or margins which may lead to blighting and defoliation.

LITERATURE CITED

1. Graf, A. B. 1974. Exotica Third. Roehrs Co., Rutherford, N. J. 1833 p.
2. Miller, J. W. and Virgona, R. J. 1978. Bacterial blight of Swedish ivy caused by *Pseudomonas cichorii*. (Abstr.) Phytopathol. News 12:135.

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